



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 10, 2012

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First USDA Forecast of the 2012 Corn and Soybean Production

The 2012 growing season began on a very optimistic note for Maryland and Delaware growers, with the fastest corn planting pace on record. The growers' optimism waned, however, when the warm spring was followed by a very dry, hot summer. Extremely hot, dry conditions continued during July adversely affecting corn and soybean production for many farmers in Maryland and Delaware. Corn yield prospects were hurt the most, with some growers commenting that corn acreage intended for grain harvest will now likely be chopped for silage. Soybean yields are projected to be lower than in 2011, but additional rains in August and September may help yield prospects improve later in the season.

Maryland: Maryland farmers project a yield of 110 bushels per acre for the 2012 corn crop, up 1 bushel per acre from last year. If realized, this will result in total production of 46.8 million bushels of corn on the 425,000 acres expected to be harvested for grain. Farmers also expect to harvest 475,000 acres of soybeans at an average yield of 37 bushels per acre. While the current forecast is 1.5 bushels below last year's average yield of 38.5 bushels per acre, it is still above the 2007 drought yield of 27.5. If realized, a total of 17.6 million bushels of soybeans are expected to be produced in Maryland in 2012.

Maryland farmers are expected to harvest an estimated 13.7 million bushels of wheat this year. The 2012 wheat yield averaged 65 bushels per acre, up 3 bushels per acre from the July 1 forecast. Barley fields are expected to yield an average of 77 bushels per acre, down 3 bushels from the 80 bushels per acre in 2011. Total barley production is estimated at 3.5 million bushels. Final estimates for Maryland small grain production will be released on September 28. Apple production is expected to total 40.5 million pounds, up 1 percent from last year. Overall, the apple crop is in mostly good condition.

Delaware: Delaware farmers report that they expect corn fields to produce an average 105 bushels per acre in 2012, down 25 bushels per acre from last year. With 187,000 acres expected to be harvested for grain, total corn production is estimated at 19.6 million bushels. Soybeans are expected to yield 30 bushels per acre, down 9 bushels per acre from 2011. Soybeans are expected to be harvested from 178,000 acres for a total production of 5.3 million bushels. Final estimates for Delaware small grain production will be released on September 28.

United States: Corn production is forecast at 10.8 billion bushels, down 13 percent from 2011 and the lowest production since 2006. Based on conditions as of August 1, yields are expected to average 123.4 bushels per acre, down 23.8 bushels from 2011. If realized, this will be the lowest average yield since 1995. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 87.4 million acres, down 2 percent from the June forecast but up 4 percent from 2011.

Soybean production is forecast at 2.69 billion bushels, down 12 percent from last year. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 36.1 bushels per acre, down 5.4 bushels from last year. If realized, the average yield will be the lowest since 2003. Area for harvest is forecast at 74.6 million acres, down 1 percent from June but up 1 percent from 2011.

ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION 2011 AND 2012

Commodity	Unit	Planted		Harvested		Average Yield		Production	
		2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
Maryland									
		-----1,000 Acres -----				-----1,000-----			
Corn	AC	500	490	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn, Grain	BU	----	----	430	425	109	110	46,870	46,750
Corn, Silage	TON	----	----	60	----	13	----	780	----
Soybeans	BU	470	480	465	475	38.5	37	17,903	17,575
Wheat, Winter	BU	260	295	190	210	66	65	12,540	13,650
Barley	BU	50	58	36	46	80	77	2,880	3,542
Apples	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	40,000	40,500
Peaches	TON	----	----	----	----	----	----	3.9	3.9
Delaware									
Corn	AC	190	195	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn, Grain	BU	----	----	182	187	130	105	23,660	19,635
Corn, Silage	TON	----	----	6	----	14	----	84	----
Soybeans	BU	170	180	168	178	39	30	6,552	5,340
United States									
		1,000,000							
Corn	AC	91,921	96,405	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn, Grain	BU	----	----	83,981	87,361	147.2	123.4	12,358	10,779
Corn, Silage	TON	----	----	5,928	----	18.4	----	109	----
Soybeans	BU	74,976	76,080	73,636	74,635	41.5	36.1	3,056	2,692
Wheat, Winter	BU	40,646	41,819	32,314	35,023	46.2	48.0	1,494	1,683
Barley	BU	2,559	3,678	2,239	3,268	69.6	67.6	156	221
All Hay	TON	----	----	55,633	57,574	2.36	2.08	131	120
Hay, Alfalfa	TON	----	----	19,213	18,812	3.40	2.92	65	55
Hay, Other	TON	----	----	36,420	38,762	1.81	1.69	66	65
Apples	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	9.4	8.1
Peaches	TON	----	----	----	----	----	----	1.07	1.02
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	48.2	48.4	46.0	47.5	279	289	13.0	16.3